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Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
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Note verbale dated 4 April 2001 from the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations addressed to the United Nations Secretariat, transmitting drafting proposals on the revised draft Programme of Action (A/CONF.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1)

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to forward its various proposals made, in a consolidated form, during the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which was held in New York from 19 to 30 March 2001.

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations requests the United Nations Secretariat to take necessary action for circulating these proposals as an official working paper of the Preparatory Committee.

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Annex

India's proposals

Section-I - Preamble

India would like the re-insertion of the footnote to PP1 in document A/Conf.192/PC/L.4/Rev.1, as updated below:

Paragraph 1: The States participating in the United Nations Conference in Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons* in All its Aspects, having met in New York from 9 to 20 July 2001,

Footnote

*** For the purposes of this Conference, the definition of small arms and light weapons is that presented in the report of the Panel of Governmental Experts on Small Arms (A/52/298, annex) of 1997, sect. III "weapons in use" and confirmed in the 1999 report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Small Arms (A/54/258, para 13, note 5), as well as in the report of the Panel of Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/54 V entitled "Small Arms" (A/Conf.192/PC/33 of 12 March 2001). This definition includes ammunition and explosives, and also stipulates that these weapons are those "manufactured to military specifications for use as lethal instruments of war" (A/52/298,para.24).**

Para 20 ....

(b) Developing **and implementing** agreed international measures to prevent and combat illicit ~~arms~~ trafficking in and manufacturing of small **arms** and light weapons and to reduce **their** excessive and destabilizing accumulations ~~and transfers of such weapons~~ throughout the world;

Section II: Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

At the national level

Para 10: To put in place adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to ensure the effective control over the transfer of small arms and light weapons, including the use of authenticated end-user certificates. ~~and enhanced legal and enforcement measures.~~

Para 11: To make every effort, without prejudice to the right of States to re-export small arms and light weapons that they have previously imported, ~~to advise~~ **with the consent of** the original exporting States before the retransfer of these weapons.

Para 18: To destroy surplus small arms and light weapons using internationally accepted and effective procedures and in accordance with cost-effective, **efficient** and environmentally sound procedures. Surplus weapons retained for other purposes will be permanently disabled and decommissioned.

Para 19: ~~To encourage States~~, in the interests of awareness-raising and confidence-building, to carry out ~~public~~ destruction, **if appropriate, at public** events.

At the regional level

A new para 24 prior: **To envisage, where applicable, measures at the regional level to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects.**

At the global level

Para 33: To request the Secretary-General of the United Nations, ~~through the Department for Disarmament Affairs~~, to develop a reference manual on ~~ecologically safe~~ **cost-effective, efficient and environmentally sound** methods of small arms and light weapons destruction.

Para 34: To support the disarmament and demobilization of ex-combatants and their subsequent rehabilitation and reintegration into civil society and, in that context, the collection and destruction of ~~illegally held~~ **surrendered** small arms and light weapons, as well as the destruction of surpluses, **unless another form of disposition has been officially authorized, provided such weapons have been marked and the form of this disposition has been recorded.** ~~and the inclusion, where required, of specific provisions in peace agreements.~~ **This aspect could be included, where appropriate, in peace agreements.**

Para 38: To encourage the relevant international and regional organisations and States to ~~facilitate cooperation~~ **cooperate** with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in activities related to **illicit trade in** small arms and light weapons, ~~in view of the important role that civil society plays in efforts to raise awareness of and address the problems associated with such weapons~~

Section III: Implementation, international cooperation and assistance

Para 4: ~~States, international and regional organizations should assist and promote conflict prevention measures and the pursuit of negotiated solutions to conflicts wherever possible.~~

Para 10: International cooperation to examine **and to ensure the fullest possible exchange and transfer of information and** technologies, which are both affordable and accessible to all producers, and which would improve the tracing and detection of small arms and light weapons, should be encouraged.

Section IV: Follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Para 1....

(b) To convene a meeting of States on a biennial basis to consider the national, ~~and~~ regional **and global** implementation of the Programme of Action;

(c) To strengthen and further develop measures contained in the Programme of Action, including negotiation of an international instrument to identify and trace, **through markings and record keeping**, the lines of supply of small arms and light weapons;

Para 2...

(a) Encourage the United Nations and other ~~appropriate~~ **relevant** international and regional organizations to undertake initiatives to promote the implementation of the Programme of Action.